

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title of the application as follows:

~~REVERSIBLE~~ CANTED SAW BLADE

Please insert new paragraph [0024.1] as follows:

A [0024.1] Referring to Figures 7 and 8, the features of the blade 12 will now be described. As shown specifically in Figure 8, the blade 12 includes a body 102 of a flat strip of sheet material having a cutting portion 104 and a shank portion 106. The cutting portion 104 includes a cutting edge 108 and a back edge 110 on an opposite side of the cutting edge 108. The shank portion 106 includes a first edge 112 extending from cutting edge 108 of cutting portion 104 and a second edge 114 extending from back edge 110 of cutting portion 104. The second edge 114 is stepped at 115 so as to be laterally offset from back edge 110 of cutting portion 104. The second edge 114 of shank portion 106 also includes an angularly disposed edge section 116 lying in a plane angularly offset from cutting edge 108 of cutting portion 104. Shank portion 106 further includes an aperture 118 having a flat rear edge 120 which is disposed generally perpendicular to angularly disposed edge section 116 of second edge 114 of shank portion 104. A rear mounting edge 122 of the shank portion 106 is also generally perpendicular to edge section 116 of second edge 114. A tail section 124 extends from the shank portion 106 adjacent to the rear mounting edge 122.

Please amend Paragraphs [0025], [0026], and [0027] as follows:

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[0025] Referring now to Figures 2 and 3, the operation of the retaining mechanism 20 will now be described using saw blade 12. To install blade 12 in the retaining mechanism 20, the blade 12 is inserted through channel 52 against the clamp end 24 of ~~cam system~~ rocker arm 14 until the ~~outer edge 76~~ rear mounting edge 122 of the blade 12 abuts the ~~an~~ angled contact surface 78 of stop 72. Tail section ~~80~~ 124 of blade 12 extends between stop 72 and the first side wall 40 to provide the blade 12 with additional stability. Side surface 74 of stop 72 provides a bias against ~~a side~~ surface 58 126 of tail section ~~80~~ 124 of blade 12. Once the blade is fully inserted, spring 32 biases the contoured contact surface 82 of the clamp end 24 against ~~the aperture wall 84~~ the flat rear edge 120 of the aperture 118 of the blade 12 which influences ~~surface 76~~ rear mounting edge 122 against ~~surface~~ angled contact surface 78 of stop 72 thereby securing the blade 12 to the retaining mechanism 20. Contoured contact surface 82 of clamp end 24 interfaces ~~aperture wall 84~~ with the flat rear edge 120 of the aperture 118 thus providing a secure edge contact therewith. Accordingly, the contoured contact surface 82 of clamp end 24, the angled contact surface 78 and side surface 74 of stop 72 counter the forces created during cutting or other operations. To remove the blade, the push button 8 is pressed against the lever end 26 of rocker arm 18 to disengage the clamp end 24 from the ~~aperture wall 84~~ flat rear edge 120 of the blade 12 aperture 86. Saw 10 prevents the user from turning on the unit while push button 8 is depressed. Similarly, push button 8 will not depress while saw 10 is in operation.

[0026] Referencing Figures 2, 4 and 5, the installation of second blade 12' (which has a greater thickness A' than thickness A of the first blade) is the same as described for

the first blade 12. The geometry of the angled contact surface 78 of stop 72 and the contoured contact surface 82 of rocker arm 18 is such that blades having different thicknesses may be securely retained. Explained further, blade 12 having a thickness "A" and a mounting ~~an~~ aperture 86 ~~118~~ a distance "B" from the ~~outer~~ rear mounting edge 76 ~~112~~ of the blade 12 is located securely between the contoured contact surface 82 of the clamp end 24 and the angled stop contact surface 78 at contact points 88, 90 respectively. Likewise, blade 12' having a greater thickness, "A'" and a smaller distance "B'" from the ~~outer~~ mounting edge 76 of the saw. As such, blade 12' may be securely retained in the clamp device 20, ~~but~~ and has contact points 92, 94 located a distance higher on the respective clamp and stop contact surfaces 82, 78 respectively. ~~As such~~ Accordingly, the geometry of the clamp contact surface 82 and the angled stop contact surface 78 cooperate to provide a versatile configuration that allows a variety of blades having a variety of thicknesses to be securely located at various contact points therebetween.

[0027] Turning now to Figures 6, 7 and 8, the retaining mechanism 20 of the present invention is operable to securely retain blade 12 which incorporates an integrated cant angle "a" (illustrated best in Figure 8), as well as a blade 28 having no cant angle (Figure 6). An important feature of canted blade 12 is that it includes a step ~~38~~ 115 incorporated in the shank of the blade as well as an angled tail section ~~80~~ 124. The step ~~38~~ 115 and angled tail section ~~80~~ 124 of the blade shank design allows for a canted blade to be formed using standard manufacturing methods and using raw-material strips having the same widths "W" that apply to blades having no cant angle (as illustrated in Figures 6 and 8). As such, a canted blade can be provided for no additional cost compared to the zero canted blades. Explained further, edges 60, 62 of non-canted blade 28 are

A 2 Change

separated an equivalent distance (designated "W" on Figure 6) as parallel edges ~~96, 98~~ 112, 114 of canted blade 12 (designated "W" on Figure 8). Accordingly, canted blade 12 with step ~~38~~ 115 and angled tail section ~~80~~ 124 can be stamped from a material strip no wider than used for blade 28. ~~The angled tail section 80 of canted blade 12 includes a side surface 100 which is angled slightly relative to a longitudinal axis offset an angle "a" from the longitudinal axis "x" of the blade 12. Angle "a" is generally between 2 and 6 degrees and preferably 3 degrees.~~ The mounting aperture ~~86~~ 118 of the blade 12 is also angularly oriented such that the flat rear aperture wall 84 mounting edge 120 of the aperture 118 is perpendicular to the ~~side surface 100 edge section 116 of the angled tail section 80 so that~~ second edge 114 of shank portion 106. As a result of this configuration, the ~~aperture wall 84 flat rear edge 120 the aperture 118~~ is also oriented perpendicular to the side walls 40, 42. ~~The outer edge 76 at the rear of the blade 12 is also perpendicular to the side surface 100.~~
